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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

The Avengers are on the run! Until they can be sure who's on their side, Spider-Man, Captain America, Luke Cage, Ronin, Mockingbird, Spider-Woman and Ms. Marvel are using Captain America's hideout in Brooklyn as a safe house. Collectively they try to keep the values of the Avengers name alive even though they're living on the wrong side of the law.

Norman Osborn is the new political and media darling, and is now running H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force, which includes his own team of Avengers.

After Norman had the Hood's crime syndicate stage a surprise attack on the New Avengers, Clint Barton, aka Ronin, finally took matters into his own hands and went on national television to out Osborn as the former villain called the Green Goblin.

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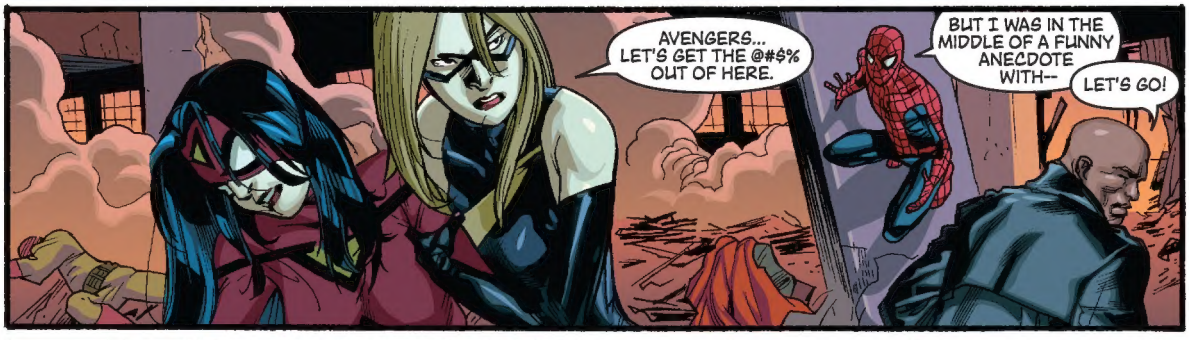
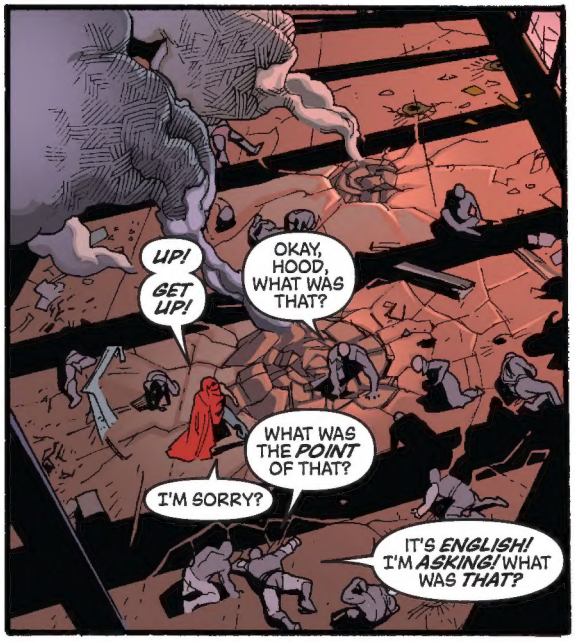
THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
ONE WEEK AGO.
GAAGGH!
WHO THE HELL *ARE* THESE GUYS?!
THE HOOD'S GANG OF NUMBSKULLS.
NICE. LIKE YOU'RE SOME SORT OF GENIUS.
WHO THE HELL IS *THE HOOD?*
SEE THE GUY WITH THE HOOD...?
I GOT AN IDEA, JESS. BLAST ME.
BLAST YOU?
EVERYTHING YOU GOT.
DO IT.
I CAN TAKE IT AND GIVE IT BACK TO THEM BIG TIME.
DO IT!


AVENGERS... LET'S GET THE @#$% OUT OF HERE.
BUT I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A FUNNY ANECDOTE WITH--
LET'S GO!

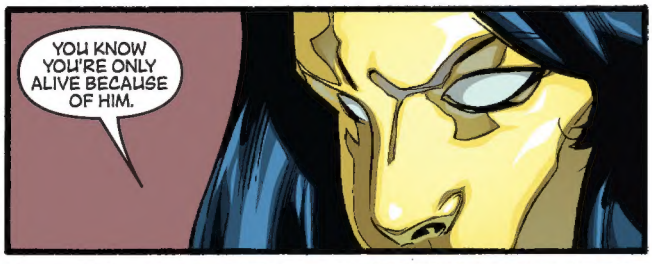

UP! GET UP!
OKAY, HOOD, WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THAT?
I'M SORRY?
IT'S ENGLISH! I'M ASKING! WHAT WAS THAT?

HEY! ARE YOU GOING TO GET UP AND FOLLOW THEM, OR--?!
I THINK I'M BLEEDING.
GET UP! ALL OF YOU!
THE WRECKER HAD A GOOD QUESTION: WHY?
HEY! YOU CAME TO ME FOR LEADERSHIP.
WE CAME TO YOU FOR A GIG. YOU PROMISED US SOME BIG TIME--

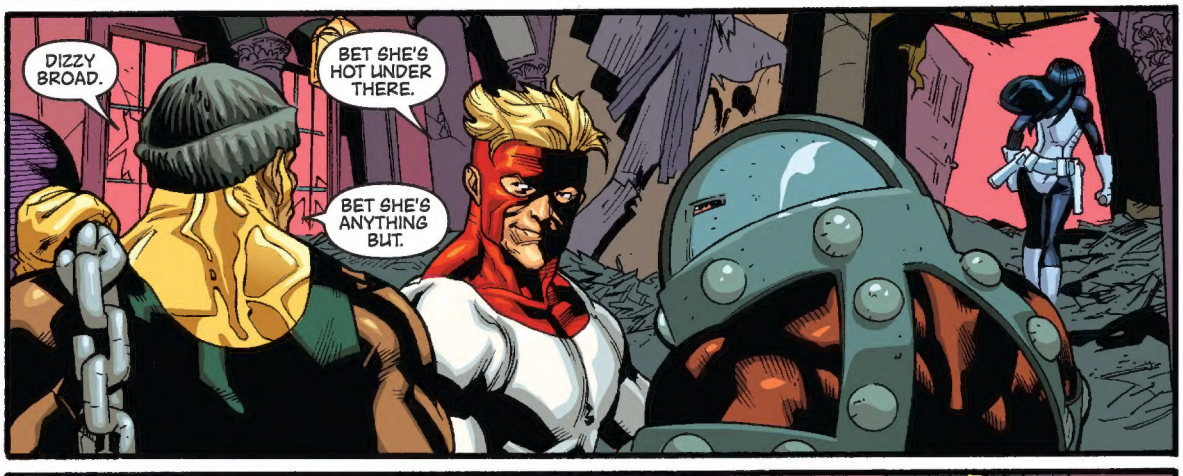
AND WITHOUT PARKER, YOU PEOPLE COULDN'T FIND BIG TIME IF IT LIVED ON YOUR LEFT--
I JUST DON'T GET HOW WE GET OUR ASSES HANDED TO US LIKE THAT...
REALLY? YOU DON'T?
WE SNUCK UP ON THEM. WE OUT-POWER THEM. WE OUT-NUMBER THEM.
YES. AND YOU LOSE.
SO WHY DO YOU THINK? WHY?

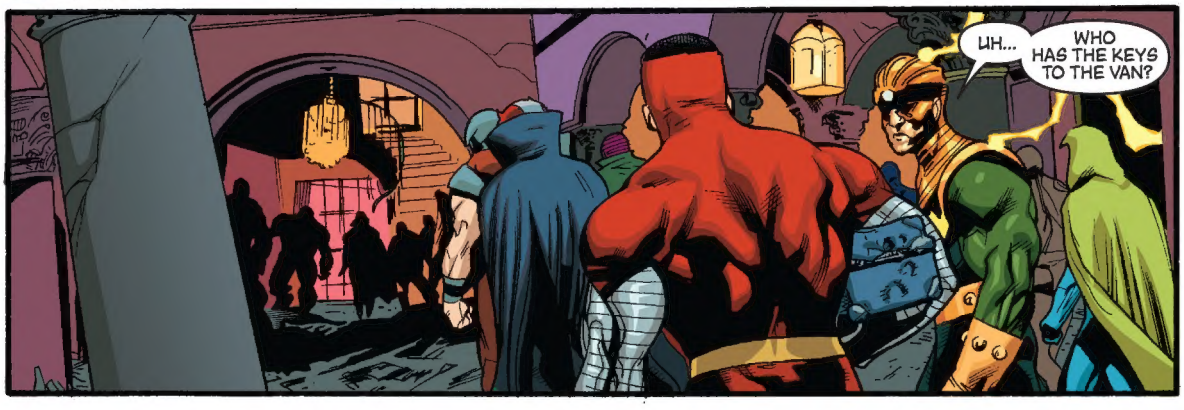
COULD IT BE THAT THEY ARE BETTER FIGHTERS? BETTER TRAINED? MORE PRACTICED?
THEY RAN AWAY.
THEY *RETREATED.* THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
NOT REALLY.
ENTIRELY.
YOU--YOU ARROGANTLY RELY ON YOUR POWERS.
POWER WITHOUT DISCIPLINE IS NOTHING.
I OFFERED YOU, ALL OF YOU, I OFFERED TRAINING.
HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW THESE AVENGERS WERE GOING TO *BE* HERE?
SOURCES.
BECAUSE THEY CLEARLY WERE EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE.
I KNOW.
WHO WERE THEY EXPECTING?
FIRST YOU ACCUSE ME OF NOT HAVING A PLAN, THEN YOU ACCUSE ME OF HAVING ONE?
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. WE ALL DO.
WHAT IS GOING ON IS-- FOR ALL THE HELLISH THINGS YOU AND YOUR WRECKING CREW PALS HAVE DONE IN YOUR LIFE...
YOU'RE *NOT* IN JAIL AND YOU JUST SENT THE AVENGERS PACKING.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF TODAY THAN YOU WERE YESTERDAY.
YOU'RE RICHER TODAY THAN YOU WERE YESTERDAY.
BECAUSE... YOU WORK WITH ME.
AND, I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW, AS I GIVETH I CAN TAKETH AWAY.
WHAT IS THAT?
DON'T KNOW. IT'S--I THINK IT'S STARK TECH.
IS IT A BOMB?

IT'S SOME KIND OF POWER DRAINER.
DON'T WORRY-- I PUT A HOLE IN IT. IT CAN'T HURT US.
I'M REALLY DISAPPOINTED YOU WOULDN'T SEE THE FIGHT TO ITS END.
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME EXACTLY HOW SERIOUSLY YOU'RE COMMITTED TO OUR ENDEAVOR.
BUT I'LL SEE YOU ALL FRIDAY NIGHT. THE REGULAR PLACE. THERE WILL BE A PAYMENT.
THEN I'LL FILL YOU ALL IN ON THE NEXT TARGET.


YOU KNOW YOU'RE ONLY ALIVE BECAUSE OF HIM.

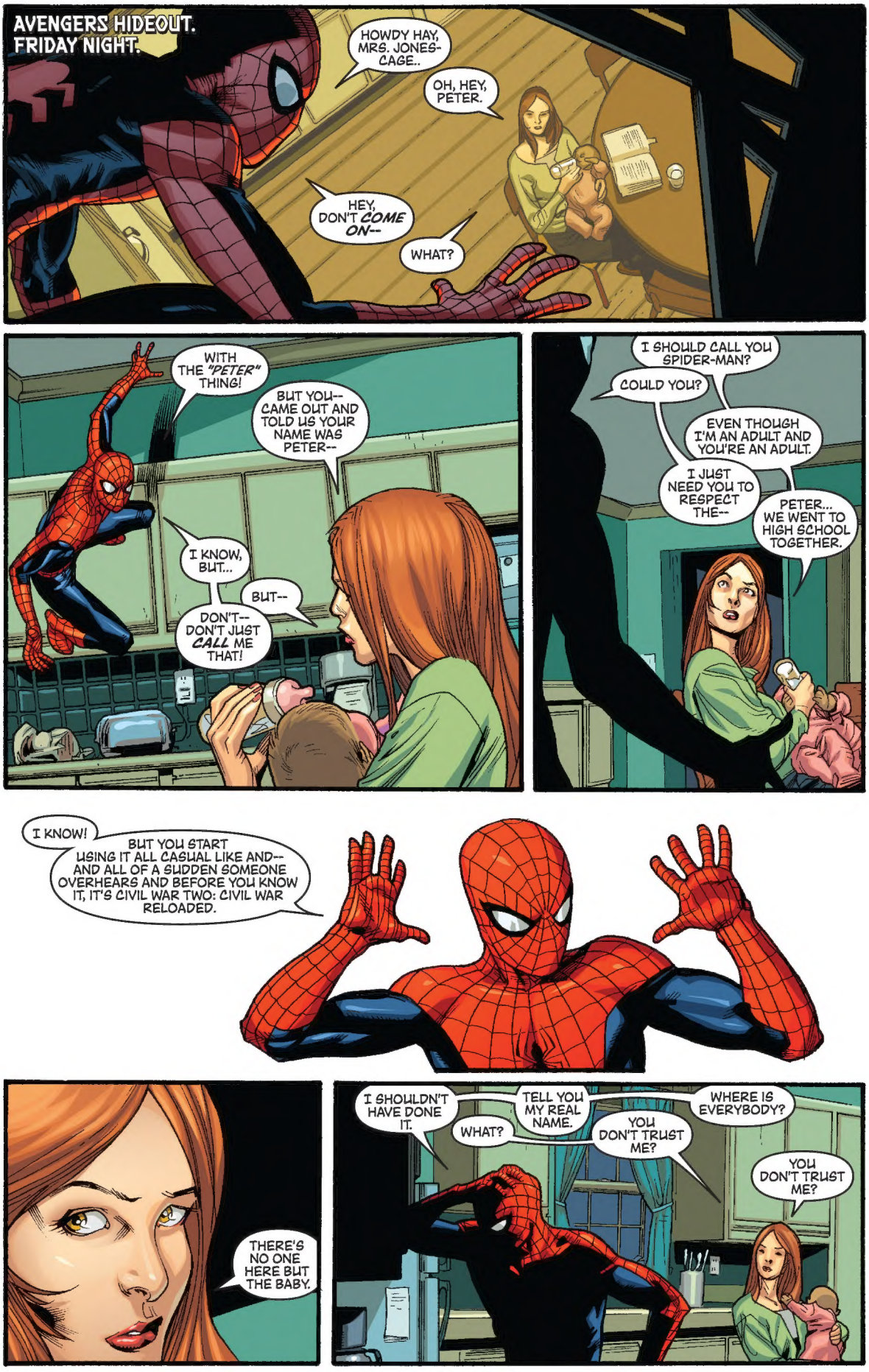
BABE, BEFORE WE MET YOU... WE TOOK ON THOR, WE TOOK ON THE HULK, WE TOOK ON ALL THE AVENGERS.
BACK WHEN THE NAME REALLY MEANT SOMETHING...
AND WE'RE STILL HERE.
TELL YOUR BOYTOY TO GET HIS @#$% TOGETHER AND GET US SOME REAL WORK OR THE WRECKING CREW IS OUT.

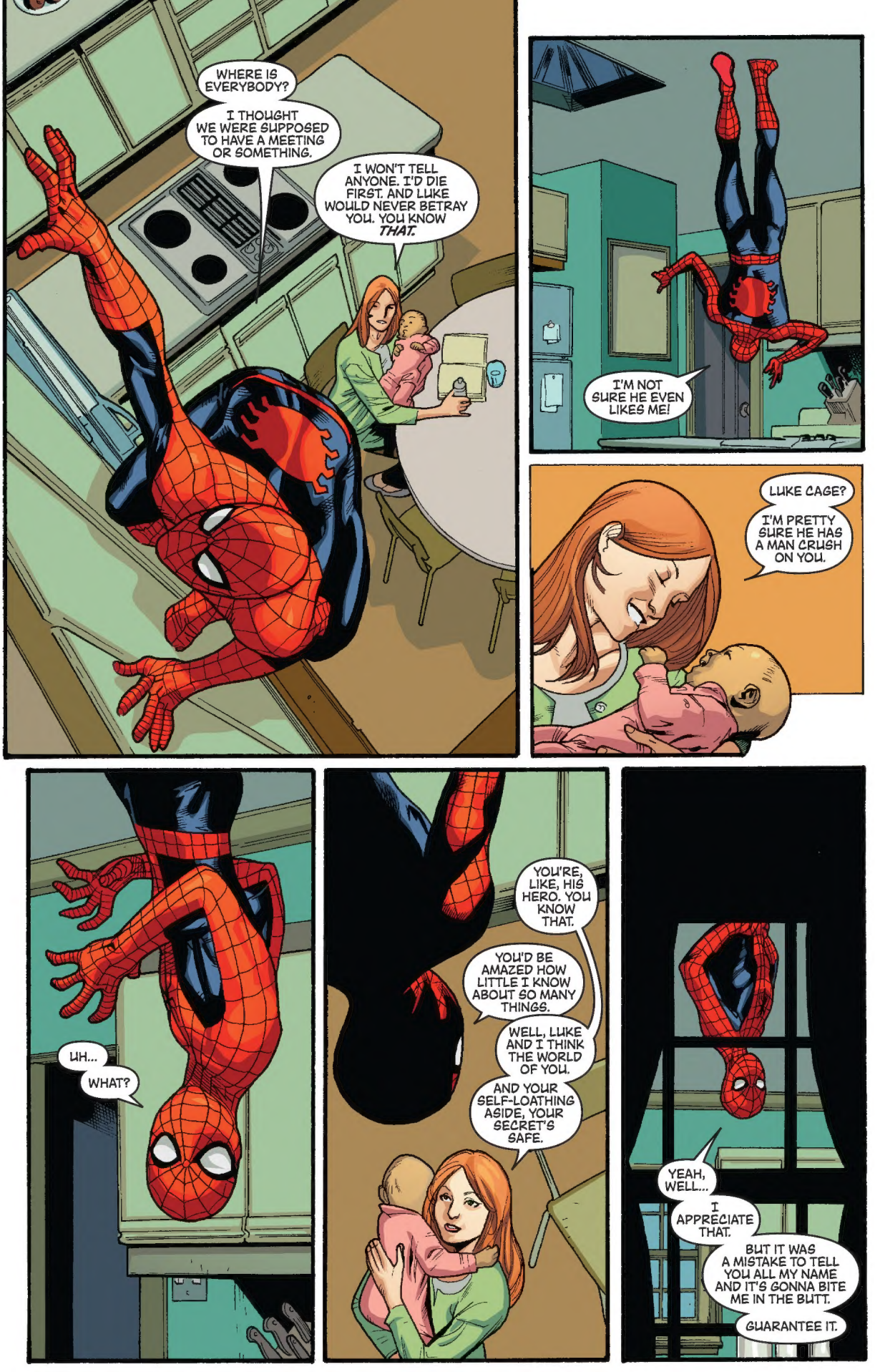

DIZZY BROAD.
BET SHE'S HOT UNDER THERE.
BET SHE'S ANYTHING BUT.


UH...
WHO HAS THE KEYS TO THE VAN?

BROOKLYN, MIDNIGHT.
THURSDAY.

DOCTOR JONAS HARROW'S LABORATORY. ONE WEEK AGO.
THIS IS STARK TECH.
I KNOW. IT'S WHY I BROUGHT IT TO YOU, DOCTOR HARROW.
A POWER DRAINER. TONY STARK INVENTED A POWER DRAINER.
I KNOW. RIGHT?
TONY STARK INVENTED A GENETIC DISRUPTER.
AND IT'S A MILLION MILES AHEAD OF ANYTHING I HAVE PUT TOGETHER.
DAMN HIM ALL TO HELL.
I THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH REVERSE ENGINEERING.
YOU THOUGHT RIGHT.
I'D LIKE IN ON THIS.
THIS-- YES, DOCTOR CARR, THIS WE'LL DO TOGETHER.
THIS KIND OF INVENTION-- THIS COULD BE THE THING THAT TURNS IT ALL AROUND.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. I MEAN, IF WE HAVE THIS...
THIS IS THE NUCLEAR BOMB IN THE WAR ON POWERS.


AVENGERS HIDEOUT.
FRIDAY NIGHT.
HOWDY HAY, MRS. JONES-CAGE..
OH, HEY, PETER.
HEY, DON'T COME ON--
WHAT?
WITH THE "PETER" THING!
BUT YOU-- CAME OUT AND TOLD US YOUR NAME WAS PETER--
I KNOW, BUT...
BUT--
DON'T-- DON'T JUST CALL ME THAT!
I SHOULD CALL YOU SPIDER-MAN?
COULD YOU?
EVEN THOUGH I'M AN ADULT AND YOU'RE AN ADULT.
I JUST NEED YOU TO RESPECT THE--
PETER... WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.
I KNOW!
BUT YOU START USING IT ALL CASUAL LIKE AND-- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN SOMEONE OVERHEARS AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT'S CIVIL WAR TWO: CIVIL WAR RELOADED.
THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT THE BABY.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.
WHAT?
TELL YOU MY REAL NAME.
YOU DON'T TRUST ME?
WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
YOU DON'T TRUST ME?


WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A MEETING OR SOMETHING.
I WON'T TELL ANYONE. I'D DIE FIRST. AND LUKE WOULD NEVER BETRAY YOU. YOU KNOW THAT.
I'M NOT SURE HE EVEN LIKES ME!
LUKE CAGE?
I'M PRETTY SURE HE HAS A MAN CRUSH ON YOU.
UH...
WHAT?
YOU'RE, LIKE, HIS HERO. YOU KNOW THAT.
YOU'D BE AMAZED HOW LITTLE I KNOW ABOUT SO MANY THINGS.
WELL, LUKE AND I THINK THE WORLD OF YOU.
AND YOUR SELF-LOATHING ASIDE, YOUR SECRET'S SAFE.
YEAH, WELL...
I APPRECIATE THAT.
BUT IT WAS A MISTAKE TO TELL YOU ALL MY NAME AND IT'S GONNA BITE ME IN THE BUTT.
GUARANTEE IT.

THE HOOD'S HIDEOUT.
FRIDAY NIGHT.
SO... THE HOOD DIDN'T SHOW.
WHAT A SURPRISE.
NO HOOD. NO MADAME MASQUE. NOT EVEN THAT CREEPY BALD COUSIN OF HIS.
TIME FOR OUR PAYDAY... AND, OF COURSE, HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
COULD BE ON HIS WAY.
YEAH. SURE....
JUST AS WELL...WE CAME HERE TO TELL HIM TO CRAM IT GENTLY. THE WRECKING CREW IS OFFICIALLY OUT.
AND IF ANY OF YOUSE HAD HALF A BRAIN, YOU'D BE GONE TOO.
WOW. WELL...
THE GOOD NEWS IS WE WON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR UNBELIEVABLE BIG MOUTH ANYMORE.
HEY, SERIOUSLY... YOU LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT THERE, LASERBEAM? BECAUSE THAT MEANS YOU'RE LOOKING TO DIE.
WE FIGHT, YOU'LL DIE. IT'S NOT A THREAT.
IT'S MATH.
HEY, MAN, ALL I'M SAYING IS I THINK WE GOT A GOOD THING HERE...
GUY'S DONE RIGHT BY US SO FAR. YOU GUYS WANT TO GO BE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE ASSHATS LIKE YOU ALWAYS ARE...
GO
BYE
MORE FOR US.
HE'S GOT US RUNNING ERRANDS FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT? HE DOESN'T TELL US @#$% AND NOW HE AIN'T PAYIN'?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO AND I DON'T KNOW--
HE'S WORKING WITH NORMAN OSBORN.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, HARROW?

WHO ELSE WOULD BE ABLE TO SET UP THE AVENGERS LIKE HE DID?

WHO'D BE ABLE TO GET THEM TRAPPED IN A ROOM?

HOW ARE WE NOT IN JAIL?

ALL THE NONSENSE AND VIOLENCE YOU'RE ALL UP TO...AND YOU'RE WALKING AROUND FREE?

HE MADE A DEAL WITH NORMAN OSBORN.

WE WORK FOR NORMAN OSBORN.

JUST NO ONE HAS TOLD ANY OF US... YET.

WELL, DAMN.

I DON'T *WANT* TO WORK FOR OR WITH OR NEAR NORMAN OSBORN.

IF THAT'S WHAT THIS IS...

WE'RE DOUBLY OUT.

I AGREE WITH YOU THAT USING US AND NOT TELLING US THE WHO AND WHY OF ALL THIS WAS AND IS UNAPPEALING.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY HE DROPS IN OUR LAPS.

THESE BETRAYALS ALONE ARE ENOUGH TO DISSOLVE THIS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP.

BUT I DON'T MIND HAVING A GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD. AND I DON'T CARE WHO GIVES IT TO ME.

AND I THINK MOST OF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY.

AND IT'S VERY APPEALING TO ME THAT SPIDER-MAN AND IRON MAN AND CAPTAIN AMERICA ARE SO OUT OF FAVOR WITH THE WORLD.

IT'S *VERY* APPEALING. THE WORLD'S AN EASIER PLACE TO MANEUVER IN.

SO NOW *YOU* WANT TO RUN THINGS?

NO. I'M A SCIENTIST.

I HAVE MY WORK.

SO WHAT ARE YOU *BABBLING* ABOUT?

I HAVE SOMETHING HERE THAT NORMAN OSBORN WANTS AND SOMETHING NORMAN OSBORN WILL PAY DEARLY FOR.

AND WE DON'T NEED PARKER ROBBINS TO GET HIS ATTENTION.

AVENGERS HIDEOUT, BROOKLYN. NOW.
NO WOLVERINE.
HE HAD TO HEAD BACK TO SAN FRAN.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU PEOPLE ABOUT THE MESS YOU--
AND HE DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY.
HE TOLD ME.
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE MESS THAT--
OH, HEY, I HEARD FROM DOCTOR STRANGE. HE SAID THANKS TO EVERYONE. AND THAT HIM AND DOCTOR VOODOO ARE DOING GREAT. HE REALLY WANTED ME TO TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL HE WAS.
YEAH, THAT WAS COOL. WE KINDA WON THAT ONE.
CAN I JUST--?
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS MEDIA WAR AGAINST NORMAN THAT YOU'VE STARTED.
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT TOO.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.
I KNOW.
AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT TALKING TO US ABOUT IT.
I AGREE.
IT INVOLVES ALL OF US.
...
YES.
SO YOU WERE WRONG?
YES.
WELL...
OKAY.
WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE IS GONE TO AVENGERS TOWER AND KILLED HIM.

UH...
WHAT?
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO GET TO HIM AND THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.
I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM OUT.
THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO HELP--I WILL BE THRILLED TO HAVE IT.
WELL, THEN I QUIT.
REALLY? THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY?
THIS MADNESS HAS TO END.
WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ALTERNATIVE PLAN?
HOW ABOUT: RISING ABOVE IT?!
HOW ABOUT: REPRESENTING THE GREATER GOOD?
EVERY SECOND THAT THIS IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, EVERY *SECOND* THIS MADNESS GOES ON... IS *OUR FAULT.*
UH, AM I THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO WANTS TO, YOU KNOW, *ACT* HEROIC IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY?

I AIN'T KILLING--*NO ONE* IS KILLING NORMAN OSBORN.

THANK YOU.

BUT THIS DOES NEED TO BE DISCUSSED.

IT *DOES?* IN *WHAT* WAY?

IT'S JUST *TALK.*

NO, ACTUALLY IT'S NOT.

HE *IS* PLANNING ON ACTING.

ACTING IS NOT JUST TALK.

IN FACT, IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF *"JUST TALK."*

PETER...

OH GOD.

WHY DID I TELL YOU PEOPLE MY NAME?

WE'RE IN A WAR. THESE KINDS OF THINGS WERE BOUND TO BE BROUGHT UP.

AND DISMISSED. QUICKLY.

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.

OUR USUAL WAYS AREN'T WORKING. WE'RE TEN STEPS BEHIND THIS GUY.

I THINK--YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK YOU'RE *CRACKING UP.*

THIS IS REALLY GETTING TO YOU AND YOU DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO DO.

YOU'RE SO USED TO YOUR OLD AVENGERS MANSION AND YOUR BUTLER AND TONY STARK PAYING FOR YOUR SPA DAYS THAT NOW THAT YOU HAVE TO LIVE *LIKE THE REST OF US...*

NOW THAT YOU HAVE TO FEEL WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE, YOU KNOW, *ME* EVERY SINGLE DAY...YOU'RE CRACKING UP.

MISTER JUDGMENTAL...

IF YOU WOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF OSBORN IN THE, I DON'T KNOW, *FIVE THOUSAND CHANCES* YOU HAD WHEN HE WAS THE GREEN GOBLIN...

WE WOULDN'T EVEN *BE* IN THIS SITUATION...

BEEP

UH GUYS...

I THINK WE'RE NEEDED.

TIMES SQUARE!
"WHAT IS HE DOING?"
"HE'S JUST STANDING THERE AND RANDOMLY FIRING HIS WEAPON."
UFO
"I SEE THAT BUT... WHAT IS HE DOING?"
PUT THE WEAPON DOWN AND GET ON YOUR KNEES WITH YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD!
"WHO IS THIS GUY? DO WE KNOW HIM?"
CHEMISTRO. OR CHEMICAL MAN... SOMETHING CHEM. HE'S ONE OF THE HOOD'S GUYS NOW, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?
MAYBE HE CRACKED UP AND HE'S JUST FIRING AT THINGS.
HE DIDN'T ROB ANYTHING OR--?!
THE REPORT SAID HE JUST SHOWED UP AND STARTED FIRING.
NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.
YET.

BOOM BOOM
GUY JUST LOST IT.
MIGHT BE A TRAP.
REMIND YOU OF ANYONE ELSE WE KNOW WHO'S STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME?
IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE HE JUST LOST IT.
REMIND YOU OF ANYONE ELSE--
STOP.
BOOM
GUY WANTS A SPANKING?
WE'LL GIVE HIM A SPANKING.

YIPES!

AGH!

DON'T. YOU THROW THE SHIELD, HE TURNS IT INTO DAISIES, YOU LOSE A VALUABLE HEIRLOOM.

DAMN, YOU'RE RIGHT.

I KNOW, I ALWAYS AM. IT'S A CURSE.

LET'S GET DOWN THERE.

AGRGH!

OKAY, DAMN, THAT'S HOT.

CAROL!

YOU KNOW WHAT, CHEMICAL BOY? I KIND OF APPRECIATE YOUR COMPLETELY POINTLESS RANDOM TANTRUM KIND OF...

UH...

FAN OUT.
DON'T LET THIS GET HIS--
AGH!
OH NO...
CAP?
WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO US?

AGH! DAMN!
MY HEART!
BOBBIE! GET OUT OF HERE!
GO GET HURAGH!
HOW ABOUT THAT?
IT WORKED.
TO BE CONTINUED...